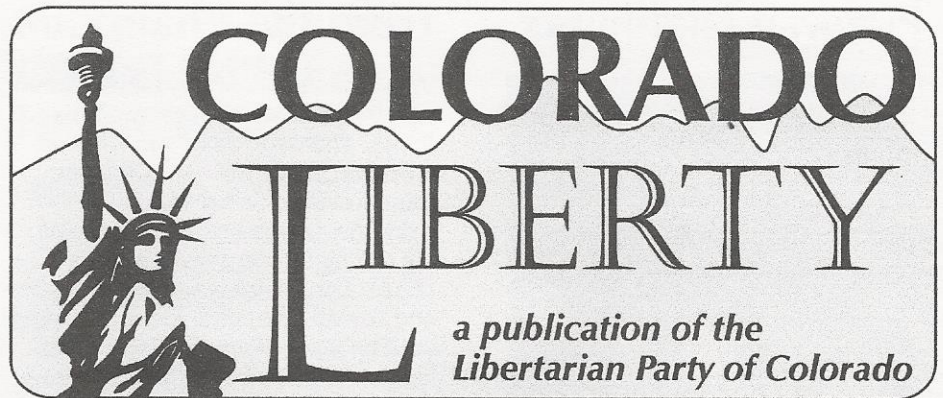


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Volume XVIII, Number 5
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July, 1997

Colorado Libertarians Celebrate the 4th in Boulder on the 5th

by W. Earl Allen

July 5th saw around thirty Libertarians gather in Boulder at the Eben G. Fine park to celebrate the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Chris Bogart provided the charcoal for some excellent barbecued burgers and vegeburgers, while David Bryant provided the hand-churned ice cream. Yummm...

Jim Misa and Warren Kruse tossed a baseball around while most folks traded stories of Libertarian triumphs from all around Colorado. It was a nearly perfect day: cool and sunny, with just a whiff of rain *before* the picnic began.

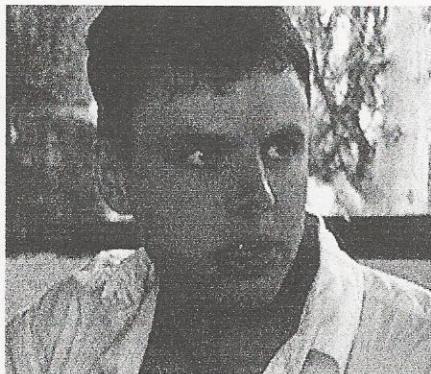


Colorado LP Volunteer Coordinator Jim Misa gets ready for a pitch from Warren Kruse.



Wellington Libertarian Joe Hutchinson enjoys a good joke at the picnic in Boulder.

If you weren't there this year, plan to be at next year's picnic, when the election season should be in full swing and Half-A-Slate in '98 will be progressing strongly.



Many kudos to Chris Bogart, organizer of the very successful 4th of July picnic at Boulder's Eben G. Fine Park.

Most Americans Should Be Ashamed to Celebrate the Fourth

by Vin Suprynowicz

Oh, so long as we stick to grilling hot dogs and hamburgs, hauling the kids to the lake or the mountains, and winding up the day watching the fireworks as the Boston Pops plays the 1812—written by a subject of the czar to celebrate the defeat of our vital ally the French—we can usually manage to convince ourselves we still honor the same values that made July 4, 1776, a date which rings in history.

The War for American Independence began over unregistered, untaxed guns...

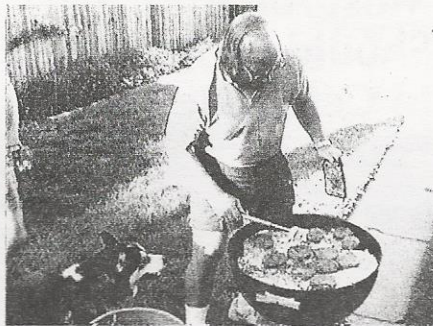
Great Britain taxed the colonists at far lower rates than Americans tolerate today—and never dreamed of granting government agents the power to search our private bank records to locate "unreported income." Nor did the king's ministers ever attempt to stack our juries by disqualifying any juror who refused to swear in advance

(continued on page 6)

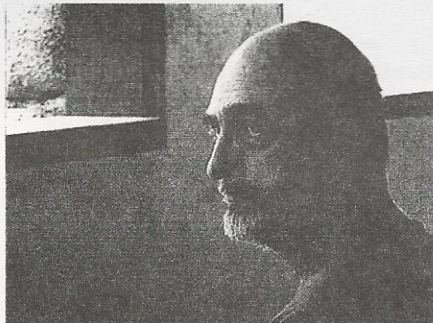
Pictorial Highlights



Doug Bruce illustrates how taxes always seem to go up, not down



Bob Johnson cooks burgers for a very hungry looking dog



Tom Goonan listens to a discussion during 4th of July Picnic in Boulder



Family Portrait of Debbie, Doug and Chip at 4th of July Picnic in Boulder

From the Chair

We've had another very active month which means we are accomplishing things! Thanks to all of you who are taking an active role in fighting for more freedom. What we really need right now is many more of you who are willing to give a few hours on a regular basis helping us grow the party and spread libertarian ideas. We need your help planning and doing things like our Success 97 event (coming up this November), garage sales, fund raisers, mailings, parties, picnics, coffees, petitioning for a tax cut amendment (see story), petitioning for candidates, letter writing, publicity, outreach, legislative contacts, bylaw changes, and campaigns.

The bottom line: the more of us who are actively working on LP functions, the more effective we can be as a political party.

What has been going on this past month? We had a very successful garage sale, thanks to those who helped by donating items and working at the sale, and a giant thanks to BetteRose Smith for her very diligent work. She was also the key person getting out a great fund raising letter.

Libertarian activists spread our message to hundreds of visitors to our booth at the Denver People's Fair. Thanks to all of you who helped out.

We are gearing up for a fall tax cut petition drive, Success '97 in November, with great speakers and a big dinner event, and the best ever LP of Colorado state convention in the spring. We will have a new web site soon (thanks to David Aitken), and a newly designed database (thanks to Deb Bishop).

If you would like to help the Libertarian Party raise some needed funds, consider helping with the petition drive to put a tax cut amendment on the ballot in the fall of 1998. The signatures must be collected starting in late August; there is a 6 month period in which to finish. You would be paid for your work. To help out our budget (possibly double it!), you could then donate what you earned to the LP. We will train you and can arrange it so you go with a buddy who knows how to do this. We are planning to have some fun with this—you should meet some new friends, and we'll have a party to celebrate when we finish. See the

story about Doug Bruce's petition on page 7 for details.

The Amendment 15 ("campaign reform") lawsuit is getting interesting. The attorney general's office has taken depositions from several of us. They are focusing on how we have been hurt by this amendment. They want proof of individuals who stated that they will not run for office because of the Byzantine restrictions of this law, or names of people who have not donated as much as they would have because of Amendment 15. If you know of any such examples, please let me know soon.

The Ballot Position challenge moved ahead with Bill Zimsky successfully challenging the relevancy of a number of defense questions. He had a hearing with a judge who saw it his way. Some of us will avoid having to give depositions. I understand that it is rare for a judge to agree with the plaintiff's requests of this nature. Way to go, Bill!

Some Utah Libertarians are planning to participate in the Success '97 event here in Denver and need places to stay (Friday and Saturday November 7 & 8). If you would be willing to give one or two people a room on those nights, please let me or any board member know.

Finally, did you notice a spectacular new development? Our last board member to get email is now "on board" with this address: luddite@allmax.com Hooray!

In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson, Chair
Libertarian Party of Colorado



Calendar

August

- 8/4 - Mon - Voter Registration Deadline - If you are going to run as a Libertarian candidate in 1998, you must register to vote as a Libertarian by this date. Call your County Clerk and Recorder or Elections office
- 8/5 - Tue - Ft. Collins 1st Tuesday Breakfast Club - 7:00am - Tony's, 224 S. College, (970) 224-3116
- 8/6 - Wed - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - home of Deb Bishop, 380 S. Quail St, Lakewood, (303) 988-6827. Come at 6:00 for some refreshments and grilled stuff. All members welcome, public comments, 6:45 and 9:00
- 8/12 - Tue - Denver Activists Meeting - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, (303) 831-4334

September

- 9/6 - Sat - Board of Directors - 3:00pm - home of Sandra Johnson, HCR 68, Box 51, Fort Garland, CO 81133, (719) 379-2767. All members welcome; public comments 2:45 and 5:00
- 9/9 - Tue - Denver Activists Meeting - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4 (303) 831-4334
- 9/26-28 - Fri-Sun - Gun Rights Policy Conference - Denver. Free. To register or get info, call (206) 454-4911 or e-mail jbarsaf@aol.com

October

- 10/1 - Wed - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LPCO Office, 720 E. 18th Ave #309, Denver. (303) 837-9393. All members welcome; public comments 6:45 and 9:00

November

- 11/8-9 - Sat/Sun - Success '97 - Denver. This two-day workshop is your chance to learn the secrets and techniques of Libertarian political success. Call Kris Williams at the national office (202) 333-0008 x231. Program and dinner: \$89; program: \$59; dinner: \$50

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC. (202) 333-0008

Success '97 Builds Critical Skills for Half-A-Slate

By Doug Anderson

Success '97 is coming to Colorado to support Half-A-Slate in '98. **You** are the critical factor in the success of both!

Success '97 is the National LP's traveling seminar that helps state and local organizations prepare for next year's elections. It will help us with party-building and campaigning by giving us tools to create successful campaigns, good party organizations, winning communications, effective public speakers, successful fund-raising events, and, most importantly, effective volunteers such as yourself!

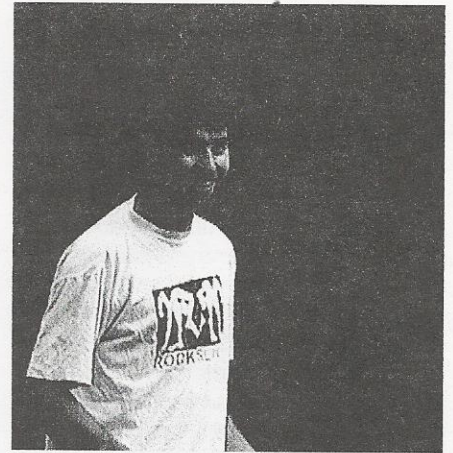
Half-A-Slate in '98 is the Libertarian Party of Colorado's plan to dramatically increase membership and public awareness of the Libertarian Party and its ideas and beliefs by running candidates for half of the districts in Colorado's House of Representatives.

Campaigns Director Doug Anderson emphasized the importance of Success '97 coming to Denver. Anderson said, "In order for Project Half-A-Slate to be successful, line-holding candidates need to learn to be effective party-building candidates. Three critical skills our candidates will learn from Success '97 are (1) building party membership (2) raising money quickly and easily, and (3) winning your precinct."

Warren Kruse, Colorado's Success '97 Coordinator, emphasized that Success '97 is not just for potential candidates. It will also teach other skills necessary for "behind the scenes" political activism that is crucial to the party's success. Those talents include party-organizing, internal and media communications, how to speak to high school and college classes, fund-raising, and finding effective volunteers. Speaking of effective volunteers, Warren needs your help in inviting all 2,600 registered libertarians to participate.

If you would like your precinct to be one of the winning precincts in the '98 elections, now is the time to invest in your success. Success '97 will be in Denver on the weekend of November 8th and 9th. For details and more

information on how to participate, please call Warren Kruse at (303) 443-4604.



Warren Kruse enjoys a bit of baseball at the Boulder picnic.

Colorado Liberty

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Colophon:

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Four Cheers for Capitalism

by Sheldon Richman

Is capitalism morally wanting? A lot of people think so—and not just the Clintons and left-wingers. Conservatives, of both the neo and paleo variety have never been comfortable with what they call “unbridled” capitalism. Just recently William Bennett, the former drug czar and education czar and now neo-conservatism’s vicar of virtue, launched an attack on capitalism in announcing a new project. Neocon godfather Irving Kristol can manage only “two cheers for capitalism.” William F. Buckley supports compulsory national service. From the other wing of conservatism, Patrick Buchanan has denounced “vulture capitalists and their painted ladies.”

Conservative anticapitalism is reflected in conservative statism. Notice that Republicans don’t like being portrayed as “negative” when it comes to government. As David Brooks of The Weekly Standard wrote:

Congressional conservatives assumed the majority in 1995, consumed by anti-government fervor and boasting of agencies to cut, programs to eliminate. As they learned, that amounted to little more than a politics of negation; they were against a lot, but for little. Limiting government is a fine, but insufficient, agenda. So the party is now significantly less anti-state and more pro-community than two years ago. Conservatives have become re-reconciled to the idea of some government action.

Brooks saw an early indication of a Republican shift when Sen. Dan Coats and Rep. John Kasich wrote, “The fact that government programs have not worked is no excuse for those in government not to act.” Recently Coats said, “We think government needs to do more than feed the body. [!] The soul and mind need to be addressed.”

If government is needed to do those things, it must mean that capitalism is deficient.

What is the conservatives’ beef with capitalism? They say the marketplace is amoral. Capitalists offer

whatever is demanded, without regard for its propriety. People unduly emphasize consumption. Hollywood caters to people’s base instincts. Under capitalism, Bennett says, “desires become needs.” (This gets awfully close to John Kenneth Galbraith’s indictment of capitalism for creating needs.)

There is a grain of truth here. In a free market, goods and services are tradable as the parties to transactions see fit. But the conservatives’ criticism is off the mark. Capitalism doesn’t do the things they complain of. People do. More specifically, free people do. Capitalism merely lets them do it. But I don’t hear the critics complain that “freedom is amoral.” Instead, they turn to history’s favorite whipping boy, capitalism.

*Blaming capitalism
for what people
supply and
demand is a little
like blaming the
game of baseball
because players
spit.*

Here is a universal truth: capitalism is what you get when the government leaves people alone. It is a legal environment that recognizes the rights to life, liberty, and property. It is a set of rules that reflects the natural right of self-ownership. Any alleged evils of capitalism are simply the result of people’s being free to choose. Blaming capitalism for what people supply and demand is a little like blaming the game of baseball because players spit.

If the conservatives want to rid capitalism of everything they see as vices (which Lysander Spooner so eloquently taught us are not crimes), they have to impose limits on freedom. Not limits like the law against murder, but limits on peaceful

conduct that violates no one’s rights. This is the same group that rails against “liberal elites” for not trusting people to make wise and moral decisions about their lives. Yet they appoint themselves as a new elite, suggesting that in the marketplace people will not make wise and moral decisions.

If conservatives wish to offer advice to willing listeners on how to live virtuously, let them do so. But when they condemn capitalism, they imply that they think the people have too much liberty. When they favor laws against drugs and pornography, they are saying that people should not be permitted to trade in certain kinds of property. Their devotion to property rights is, to put it mildly, less than complete. When they favor laws against prostitution, they demonstrate that their commitment to self-ownership is weak. They would not join in my paraphrase of Voltaire: I may dislike what you trade, but I will defend to the death your right to trade it.

I, for one, would like to object to the claim that capitalism is amoral. In the market, people may engage in any peaceful conduct, even if it is “immoral.” But that does not mean that capitalism is amoral. The market has a strong moral base. To put it in Lockean terms, recognition of each person’s property in himself and his legitimately acquired possessions is a moral principle.

Under capitalism, you cannot own another human being. That’s a moral idea. Under capitalism, killing another person is illegitimate. That’s a moral idea. Under capitalism, using a person’s property on terms other than those he’s agreed to is prohibited. That’s a moral idea. To believe capitalism is amoral, you’d have to believe that liberty is outside of morality. But since free choice is a prerequisite for moral agency, that argument is plainly absurd.

Equally ridiculous is the branding of capitalism as a system that extols “atomistic individualism.” That’s just crazy on the face of it. It’s always been a straw man. No advocate of capitalism ever waxed ecstatic with a vision of individuals living self-sufficiently by themselves. I don’t know what you would call such a “social” arrangement, but it wouldn’t be capitalism. As the Austrian econo-

(continued next page)

mists never tire of pointing out, capitalism is a monument to social cooperation. The free market is synonymous with the division of labor and an ever-expanding circle of exchange. How atomistic does that sound?

*Competition is
what you get
when people are
free to choose
with whom they
will cooperate.*

When conservatives criticize capitalism for being excessively individualistic, they start sounding like the left, which faults markets for being competitive rather than cooperative. How much confusion has been displayed over that issue! It doesn't take much to see that competition and cooperation are two aspects of the same idea. Competition is what you get when people are free to choose with whom they will cooperate. Look at it this way: I need shoes. I am confident that I could not make a decent pair for myself, certainly not without devoting much time and effort that I would prefer to put to other purposes. So I cooperate with someone else to acquire shoes.

Cooperate with whom? Whoever can provide the best value. In a free market, anyone is free to offer to cooperate with me in this endeavor. And I am free to decide whose offer I will accept. That is the genesis of competition. Cooperation minus competition equals coercion. Forced cooperation is not nearly as attractive as it's made out to be.

The upshot is that the marketplace is as far from atomistic as it could be. People are constantly cooperating with people in ever wider circles. The more advanced the market, the wider the circles. Every day, you and I cooperate with people at great distances—people whose names we will never know—people we will

never meet. Yet we cooperate. It's amazing when you think about it. (This, by the way, is why it is in our self-interest for the people of other nations to get rich. Protectionism and beggar-thy-neighbor policies are always self-defeating.)

Capitalism, indeed, is the system of individualism, in the sense that each person is politically free to decide for himself what he wants, how he will work to get it, and with whom he will cooperate.

But such individualism is not atomistic. It's molecular.

"Molecular individualism" is not an elegant enough phrase to serve as a battle cry for the libertarian movement. It's a bit long for a bumper sticker. But it expresses an important point we must make in our efforts to win adherents. Capitalism is the only truly "social" system, in that it respects the social spontaneity born of the free, peaceful activities of human beings. It permits, as Friedrich A. Hayek taught, the widest use of the explicit and tacit knowledge that is scattered throughout society, thus improving everyone's chances for a better life. Since it makes a truly human life possible, capitalism is eminently moral.

The right-wing critique of capitalism is off base. It reflects a pre-capitalist mentality that doesn't understand and, therefore distrusts, liberty. We should keep that in mind when we search the landscape for allies.

Mr. Richman is vice president of policy affairs at The Future of Freedom Foundation and the author of Separating School & State: How to Liberate America's Families, published by The Future of Freedom Foundation. Reprinted by permission from Freedom Daily, the Future of Freedom Foundation's monthly periodical.

No country can be well governed unless its citizens as a body keep religiously before their minds that they are the guardians of the law, and that the law officers are only the machinery for its execution, nothing more.
—Mark Twain

Subvert the System! Apply for a Board or Commission

by Judd Ptak

Too busy to run for office? Want to add to the resume for when you do run? Or add to the resume for your next job? You can have an impact on the government by applying for a volunteer board or commission.

The new list of state boards came out at the end of June. The number and variety of these boards is staggering. The dates on which terms begin vary widely, but not all appointments are made on time. How can you find what is available? Write to:

The Honorable Roy Romer
Governor, State of Colorado
Attn: Karen Rokala, Director, Boards
& Commissions
136 State Capital
Denver, CO, 80203-1792

Or call (303) 866-4267, or send an E-Mail to romer@governor.state.co.us and ask for the booklet listing Boards & Commissions vacancies.

I plan to apply for at least the 20th Judicial District Nominating Commission myself. Wouldn't that be a hoot: a Libertarian and Jury Rights activist helping pick the short list of nominees for judges from which the Guv makes the final pick.

There are over 30 pages of other boards and commissions at the State level. And don't forget local boards, but you'll have to check with your own city or county for vacancies and term dates. Local boards usually have terms which begin in January, with application deadlines in November or December.

Even if you don't get appointed, you get to point out how non-inclusive the folks in office are, and if anyone tells you that you or Libertarians in general need to be more involved in the process, you have an easy answer. Local boards usually give every applicant a personal interview, so you get to look them in the eye and make them squirm a little before they nominate someone else.



to "leave your conscience outside and enforce the law as the judge explains it to you."

The king's ministers insisted the colonists were represented by Members of Parliament who had never set foot on these shores. Today, of course, our interests are "represented" by one of two millionaire lawyers—both members of the incumbent Republican Party—among whom we were privileged to "choose" last election day, men who for the most part have lived in mansions and sent their kids to private schools in the wealthy suburbs of the imperial capital, for decades.

Yet the colonists did rebel. It's hard to imagine, today, the faith and courage of a few hundred frozen musketeers, setting off across the darkened Delaware, gambling their lives and farms on the chance they could engage and defeat the greatest land army in the history of the known world, armed with only two palpable assets: one irreplaceable man to lead them, and some flimsy newspaper reprints of a parchment declaring: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it. ..."

Do we believe that, still?

Recently, President Clinton's then-Drug Czar, Lee Brown, told me the role of government is to protect the people from dangers, such as drugs. I corrected him, saying, "No, the role of government is to protect our liberties."

"We'll just have to disagree on that," the president's appointee said.

The War for American Independence began over unregistered, untaxed guns, when British forces attempted to seize arsenals of rifles, powder and ball from the hands of ill-organized Patriot militias in Lexington and Concord. American civilians shot and killed scores of these government

agents as they marched back to Boston. Are those Minutemen still our heroes? Or do we now consider them "dangerous terrorists" and "depraved government-haters"?

In "The Federalist" No. 46, James Madison told us we need have no fear of any federal tyranny ever taking away our rights, arguing that under his proposed Constitution "the ultimate authority ... resides in the people alone," and predicting that any usurpation of powers not specifically delegated would lead to "plans of resistance" and "appeal to a trial of force."

Another prominent federalist, Noah Webster, wrote in 1787: "Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretence, raised in the United States."

Is this still true today? Or are those who arm themselves and make contingency "plans of resistance" against government usurpations instead branded "conspirators" and "terrorists," and ridiculously associated with Timothy McVeigh (who was kicked out of the only militia meeting he is ever known to have attended—

in Michigan—and whose actions surely reflect more directly on the screening process of the outfit that gave him his training in munitions—the United States Army.)

In Phoenix last week, an air conditioner repairman and former Military Policeman named Chuck Knight was convicted by jurors—some tearful—who said they "had no choice" under the judge's instructions, on a single federal "conspiracy" count of associating with others who owned automatic rifles on which they had failed to pay a \$200 "transfer tax"—after a trial in which defense attorney Ivan Abrams says he was forbidden to bring up the Second Amendment as a defense.

Were the Viper Militia readying "plans of resistance," as recommended by Mr. Madison? Would the Constitution ever have been ratified, had Mr. Madison and his fellow federalists warned the citizens that such non-violent preparations would get their weapons seized, and land them in jail for decades?

Happy Fourth of July.

Vin Suprynowicz is the assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Readers may contact him via e-mail at vin@lvjr.com. The web site for the Suprynowicz column is at <http://www.nguworld.com/vindex/>

Lieut. Colonel Smith,
10th Regiment Foot

Sir:

Having received intelligence, that a quantity of Ammunition, Provision, Artillery, Tents and small arms, have been collected at Concord, for the Avowed Purpose of raising and supporting a Rebellion against His Majesty, you will March with the Corps of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, put under your command, with the utmost expedition and Secrecy to Concord, where you will seize Arms, and all Military Stores whatever. But you will take care that the Soldiers do not plunder the inhabitants, or hurt private property.

Your most obedient humble servant
Thomas Gage

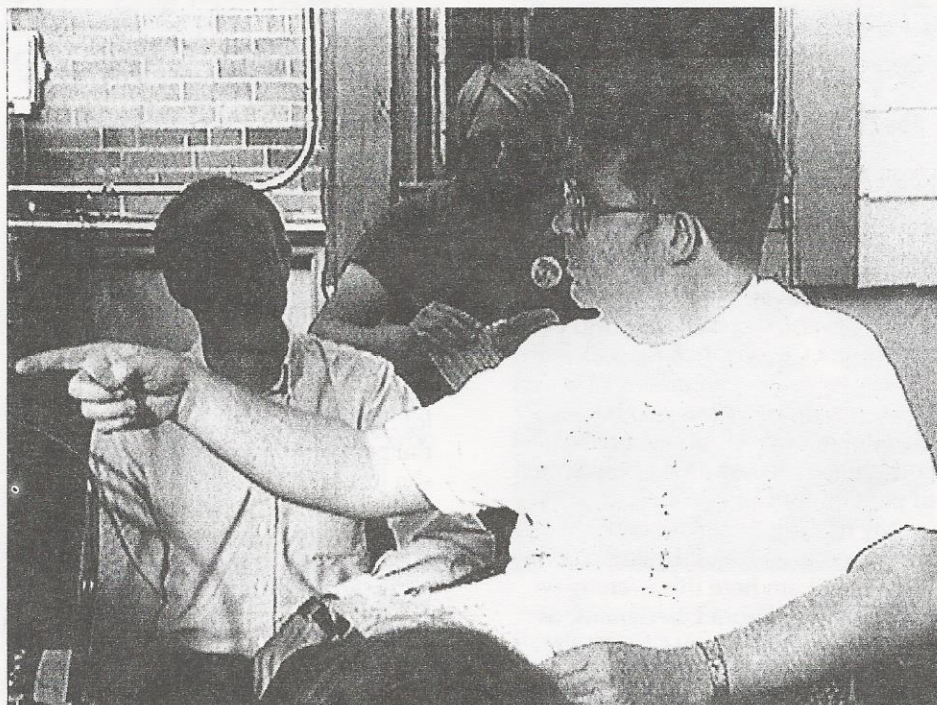
Get Paid to Cut Your Taxes!

by W. Earl Allen

At the Board Meeting on July 2, Doug Bruce, author of Colorado's government-limiting Amendment 1, offered another opportunity for Libertarians to limit the economic mischief done by Colorado governments. In his words, here's the offer:

Do you want a \$25 tax cut on these State and Local taxes?:

- **Utility taxes:** each phone, pager, gas, electric, cable TV bill
- **Vehicle tax:** each vehicle, paid yearly—not spent on roads now
- **Property taxes:** relief for homeowners, seniors, small business
- **Income tax:** \$25 tax-free will help low-income workers most



Doug Bruce points out the advantages of a tax cut to Gary Sandritter and Bill Fargo.

Put Your Business On the Internet!

Your next store can be open for business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for as little as \$300 setup plus maintenance. You'll be in front of 20,000 potential customers every day in the iMall, one of the nation's largest Internet shopping malls.

Why be on-line? Sales Leads, Customer Service, Market Research, Coupon Dispensing, and Public Relations help cut costs and build your business!

Custom Web Sites
Mini Sites
Classified Ads
Web Site Registration
Web Site Links
Headline Testing Service

Gilt-Edge Software
A Libertarian-Owned Business
(303) 861-3031

10% discount to Libertarian Party members. Call today for free information! Send e-mail to daitken@tde.com, or visit our web site at <http://www/tde.com/gesipd.htm>

The state repays all local revenue losses. Each tax cut increases \$25 the next year, then \$50 a year, but may be delayed to ensure remaining state revenue grows \$200 million a year or more after that tax relief.

That's it! This two-sentence petition means more money for your family and more freedom in your future. There is *no loss of public services* because it does not cut year-to-year government revenue; it just *slows government's growth rate*.

19 states recently cut taxes. Now it's Colorado's turn. With the 8th highest local taxes in America, let's phase out nuisance taxes! Make wasteful bureaucracies more efficient!

Help our economy by refunding part of that \$795 million state revenue surplus! This tax cut is fair and simple. Instead of big tax breaks for special interests and lobbyists, *it's real tax relief for every taxpayer. To help cut taxes, call (719) 550-0010.*

Our proposed November 1998 ballot title:

Shall there be a \$25 tax cut, to increase yearly, on each state and local utility customer tax, vehicle ownership tax, specified property tax, and yearly state income tax, with monthly state replacement of all affected local revenue, provided that the general assembly may delay future tax cut increases when remaining state revenue from all sources grows less than \$200 million?

\$30,000 is available to pay for 60,000 signatures. That's twice the annual LP budget! You can volunteer your time, or you can work for pay and give all or part of your earnings to the Libertarian Party.

This sounds like a great opportunity to raise money for campaigns in 1998 while helping the cause of Liberty at the same time. If you're interested, contact Doug Bruce or the Tax Cut Committee at Box 26018, Colorado Springs, CO 80936. Phone (719) 550-0010.

Doug Newman Separates Church and City in Aurora

by Doug Newman, who delivered only part of this speech to the Aurora City Council, due to a 3-minute time limit

Thank you very much for coming out this evening. Thank you also to the Aurora City Council for making it so easy for common citizens to voice their grievances. Let us also be thankful that we in America have a constitutional **guarantee** of the right to petition for redress of grievances.

My name is Douglas Newman. I have lived in Aurora for two and one-half years. I am here this evening on behalf of the Aurora Libertarians, as well as on behalf of my Christian brothers and sisters in Aurora.

I am here to express the indignation of both Christians and lovers of liberty (which includes the religious liberty of ALL people) at the proposal by some members of the Aurora City Council to no longer issue permits to storefront churches in certain parts of Aurora. This proposal was the subject of a front page story in the *Denver Post* on May 16.

How dare they intrude so recklessly upon our religious freedoms, which are **guaranteed** by the "**free exercise**" clause of the First Amendment? How dare they intrude so recklessly upon the rights of landlords to rent to whomever they choose, **guaranteed** by the Fifth Amendment and that pesky old Ninth Amendment?

At least they are honest about their reason for wanting to limit storefront churches: Churches don't generate sales tax revenue. For-profit enterprises **do** generate this revenue. And people accuse corporations of being greedy! This proposal will do nothing less than steal crumbs from the mouths of the poor and the homeless.

Consider what Rob Kimble, an elder at the Divine Love Christian Center at the corner of Dayton and Colfax told the *Denver Post*: "We are a spiritual place and God does work here. We're at the very corner where people using drugs and alcohol come off the streets. The church is winning souls!"

Divine Love and numerous other churches in North Aurora embody the

spirit of Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come unto Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Contrast this with the words of Carol Singer of the planning commission: "There is enough building inventory that the churches could easily find another space. It doesn't have to be a storefront." This sounds a lot like Marie Antoinette to me. When the people of France had no bread, she just said, "Let them eat cake."

It was Ms. Caldwell who in 1991 helped lead a fight to stop people from turning residential homes into small churches. Many of these congregations cannot afford traditional buildings. They simply do not have the financial resources. Where may these folks wind up if churches are verboten from renting storefronts in these neighborhoods?

The Divine Love Christian Center has already faced considerable harassment from the City of Aurora because it did not have — get this — enough parking places. Other churches have been pestered by the city for various and sundry building code violations. Complying with these regulations costs money which these churches in many cases **do not have**.

Don't get me wrong: the City of Aurora will let you have a church as long as it is architecturally sophisticated enough. This is like saying that you can have a retail store, as long as it resembles Neiman Marcus. Or you can have a hotel, as long as it resembles a Hilton. Or you can have a baseball field as long as it resembles Coors Field.

I am reminded of Luke 11:46, when Jesus said to the Pharisees: "And you experts in the law, woe to you because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."

Ms. Caldwell, Ms. Singer and their ilk say that additional sales tax revenue is essential for revitalizing Aurora. How typical of the modern day Pharisees who hold public office in America. They love to congratulate themselves on how much they are doing to help us, even after the failure of over 30 years and trillions of dollars

of government programs aimed at urban renewal.

If such programs could heal the ills that afflict America's cities, we would by now have ended poverty, America's children would be the best educated in the world, crime and drug use would be almost nonexistent, and the corner of Colfax and Dayton would resemble a street corner in the Denver Tech Center. Yet none of these things are so, and the more government does in any of these areas, the worse things get.

This evening, we may not be able to repeal decades of counterproductive government programs. However, we can stand fast for the most positive institutions at work in North Aurora: the storefront churches. My brothers and sisters in Christ in these churches are working relentlessly and successfully to reach so many of the forgotten members of our society. The spiritual revitalization they offer by touching hearts and turning around lives is far more powerful than secular government could ever be.

Ms. Caldwell says she will receive much criticism for making this proposal. Well, let us not disappoint her. Let us resist with every fiber of our being this campaign against storefront churches. And let us drive a stake through the heart of this proposal to no longer grant permits to storefront churches.

On behalf of the Aurora Libertarians, and on behalf of the Christian community of Aurora, thank you and God bless you.



Two Dougs and a Dog
(Doug Newman, Doug Anderson and Chip)

"I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

—Thomas Jefferson

The Denver LP needs you!

by David Aitken

The Denver LP needs you! Next year, the state party is planning to run candidates for the Colorado General Assembly in half the seats, about 32 races.

The Denver LP wants to do its share, so we are seeking registered libertarians to serve on the vacancy committees for each of the 10 house districts in the City and County of Denver.

The vacancy committee usually has nothing to do. Its duties consist only of filling a vacancy if the candidate becomes unable to serve, but it is required by state law.

This is a perfect opportunity for members to get involved, meet other libertarians, and find out how the system works without doing too much.

Call David Aitken, Denver LP chairman, 831-4334, if you want more information or are willing to serve on a vacancy committee.

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

—P.J. O'Rourke

Kudos

- Kudos to Rob Gilmor, Geoffrey Lloyd, David Bryant, and David Aitken for assembling the last issue of the Liberty for mailing.
- Kudos to Larry Hoffenburg for highlighting the information regarding Earl Christensen's spat with Senator Ben Alexander (page 10).
- Kudos to Chris Bogart for organizing a really superb picnic in Boulder (and thanks to the weather gods for providing such perfect weather).
- Kudos to Bill Fargo for his excellent setup and maintenance of the Libertarian Party of Colorado's phone system. If you haven't called it recently, try it: (303) 837-9393.

Hempstock '97 Coming to Boulder

by Ron Bain

Happy the Hempster Hamster says, "No more running around in circles! 60 years of prohibition is enough!" You can lighten up and come to Hempstock '97 on Saturday, August 16th from high noon 'til past 7pm at the Central Park Bandshell in downtown Boulder.

Bands to be featured include the blues stylings of *Master Cylinder*; *Who Cares*, covering the music of Pete Townshend and the Who, and lots more.

Sponsored by the Bolder Hemp Initiative Project, Colorado Cannabis Coalition and the Boulder County Libertarian Party. For more info call (303) 784-5632.



Gary Dewyn chats with Danny Hashimoto at the Boulder picnic.

Libertarian Ideas Aired on New Radio Show

by Larry Hoffenburg

Starting Sunday July 13, and every Sunday for the indefinite future, LP of Colorado Public Information Director Larry Hoffenburg will appear as a regular commentator on the Dan Kilo Show on 1280 AM KRRF (Ralph).

Dan Kilo is a self-described "Republi-tarian," ala Ron Paul and Penn Pfiffner. He's fed up with the Republicans pretty much the same way Michael Reagan is, but he's not quite ready to make the jump to the Libertarian party. He regularly encourages his listeners to vote for Libertarian candidates.

The Dan Kilo Show has been on the air for about 4 months, and it has gone well. The show has been pushed into prime-time and expanded from 2 to 3 hours each Sunday evening, now running from 7:00-10:00pm.

The plan is that at about 9:30 pm each Sunday, Larry will be brought on air to help wrap up the show and provide the Libertarian perspective on whatever Dan, his guests, and callers have been discussing for the first 2 1/2 hours of the show.

Dan wants to establish Larry as a "regular" on the show. Later other LP spokespersons will appear as guests.

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Senator Swears at Montrose Highschooler

by W. Earl Allen

The story so far: Earl Christensen, a Montrose High School student, wrote an essay for his English teacher on why government doesn't work. He sent it to his State Senator, Ben Alexander, R-Montrose. The Senator took exception to the essay and invited Earl to discuss it at a local restaurant during the first week in July.

During their conversation, Senator Alexander called Christensen "a worthless piece of s---." Christensen terminated the conversation by walking out. Alexander has apologized but Christensen isn't buying it.

Christensen's essay is reprinted below unedited, exactly as he sent it to Senator Alexander.

Why Government Doesn't Work

by Earl Christensen [sic]

If I was to ask you what democracy meant to you, what would you say? Freedom, the right to vote on government changes. Yes, we are free, free to fit the norm and join the army, but to live our lives how we see fit, we have no rights. I will admit that as long as one live inside the boundaries the government sets one can live well. I could live a long and healthy life, go to college, be a soldier just like grandpa, but what if I do not want to live like that. Democracy means, to me, the ability to live life how you want.

If a person wants to be a bigot or drug addict they should be allowed to. We live in a society that tries to solve its problems by passing laws. Every election there are more laws that are merely the rewording of an existing law. Nothing can be solved if all our government does is argue. Originally there were not supposed to be any parties, just one government. Our government has split up and that has made it weaker. Our government is a republic and a democracy, just like our government is split we are. There are two sides and the tension is growing. People are unhappy but they can do nothing to change anything.

Our votes are never really heard because there are too many middlemen. We vote on who gets to cast the vote that counts. People try to protest and they get shot at or broken up by other means. We have been backed into a corner and we are powerless to do anything about it. The American public wants protection. In order to achieve that they have sacrificed freedoms they cannot get back.

The first amendment states, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." We have allowed the Congress to pass laws stating that no press be allowed to report from the Senate. We let television and radio be censored. Boundaries on firearms have been set. People wanted protection from foul language and to have protection from invasion. We gave up freedom for protection.

America has changed, our government was said to have been shaped for it but we seem to be coming apart. The old attitude of "give me liberty or give me death" is dead. Now it is watch your mouth or get sued. When a professional baseball manager cannot use racial slurs without having to answer to somebody's lawyer, that says something about our attitude. We force everyone to be nice and do the right thing. It is a cold thought, but a lot of people do not want to be nice. It was a person's right to choose if they wanted to be nice or not. It is not correct because it used to be a right, but when a person does not have the right to have their own attitude, how can they possibly be free.

Freedom has lost its worth just like our money. All we care about is money, and if our youth is in the top world percentile. We even try to make other countries be nice. When did we lose our sense of self worth, probably in World War II. When we got pulled into that Americans were already willing to pass any thing, the great Depression took care of that. When all the new laws were passed so quickly and for such noble causes, people could not see their freedom slowly being hijacked.

Our "fore fathers" that we see as these geniuses, were hypocritical, pot smoking idealists. The ideas they had were simple enough, freedom is priceless. They fought and won a war over less then we deal with on a good day. The problems caused by growth could not have been predicted, but did we handle them the right way? The reasons for being concerned with world affairs is clear, but oppressing

our own people is wrong. We want fair business, so we take someone's freedom to conduct business in order to stimulate your economy. We do not want people to smoke so we remove a person's freedom to advertise. What is next, we do not want people to eat too much fat so we remove the freedom to eat what we like? That may sound ridiculous, but is it not a little ridiculous people can not smoke in public places. In order to protect the children we have taken our own rights away.

Police are out of control; in a lot of cases if a person tries to inform an officer of their rights, the officer either ignores them or reacts violently. More often it is the second. In a small town like Montrose, we have police brutality and corrupt cops. I cannot prove that statement, only because it is the police. Their supposed to work for us, yet if you as much as kill a cop's dog, you can go to jail. They can kill your father and get a metal. Most of this is caused by the war on drugs.

The war on drugs is a war on the American public who choose to use drugs. People always have and always will want to get high. It does not matter if it is alcohol or inhaling Pam, people want to get high. It is the war on drugs that causes little kids to sniff Lysol. If they would have bought some pot they would be alive. If people want to use drugs it is their constitutional right, THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. We were given this right, although some choose to look around it or say that was not what was meant. We are not free at all if we can not take our rights as we like. The only stated boundary to this right is as long as there is no infringement on another's rights. Is a man who comes home every night and gets high, instead of beating his kid infringing on anyone's rights?

Our freedoms have been taken in exchange for protection. The freedom we do have is still enough to live with, but if the laws do not stop then what will we have left. There will not be any freedom if we keep this up. America was founded because of man's hatred for tyranny. Our government is rapidly approaching tyranny status, then what will we have. We need to start protesting, and let our government leaders know that it is time to stop. It is time to leave us alone and give us back our freedom. If we do nothing, or even if we do something, a civil war is rapidly approaching.

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